

graduation June 1956  
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It is fitting that no single person is saying farewell for the first graduating class of Wakefield. For we have been a class of individuals. Some of us would rather pitch a baseball than anything else; some would rather play a trombone; some would rather repair a car engine. These differences are good. For the mechanic listens to music he cannot play, and the musician drives a car he could not repair.

It is perhaps the greatest accomplishment of the many accomplishments here at Wakefield that such varied people have learned to live with one another. Looking back on our years at Wakefield, we can see our relationships with others growing through three experiences. They have evolved from competition to cooperation to companionship.

Of these three experiences, competition has most effectively developed our individual abilities. If we made poor grades in a class, we could look around at those who did well, examine their work habits, measure our ability against theirs, and thus be encouraged to do our best.

On the other hand, we may have found ourselves among people whose abilities were so much greater, or so much less than our own, that we could not compete with them. Fortunately, at Wakefield we have been provided with such a wide range of programs, that whether our abilities lie in a

skilled trade, in the humanities, in business, or in science, we have been able, by competing with others like us, to realize our potential as individuals. This was the first step in our learning to live with others--accepting ourselves.

But even when we had taken this step, there were other experiences offered us which could make our high school days even more meaningful. They were: cooperation, and companionship.